



## E-NEWS from *Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn*

**An electronic legislative update for August 5, 2002**

### DID YOU KNOW?



The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, will be placed in the newly-created Department of Homeland Security under a bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 26th. FEMA is the first responder when regions are hit by natural disasters, such as the earthquake that struck the Puget Sound region early last year. As the war on terrorism is waged in our own backyard, however, FEMA is being called upon to prepare for more terrorist attacks. The FEMA Region 10 headquarters is located in Bothell and covers all of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska.

Jennifer, pictured above with FEMA Region 10 Administrator John Pennington, speaks with employees at the Bothell headquarters about the challenges facing America in its fight against terrorism. Jennifer visited the site on Thursday, August 1.

**On Saturday morning, July 27, the US House adjourned for its August district work period. There are no votes scheduled until September 4, 2002.**

**Following is a list of the highlights of Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn's district work schedule;**

**On Wednesday, August 7, at 6:30 PM, US Representatives Jennifer Dunn and Adam Smith will hold a public Homeland Security forum.** Participants include Sheriff Dave Reichert, US Attorney for the Western District of Washington State John McKay, FBI Special Agent in Charge for Washington State Charlie Mandigo and several other Washington State law enforcement leaders. **The forum will be held at the Bellevue Community College Theater** (3000 Landerhold Circle SE in Bellevue).

**On Thursday, August 8 at 10:00 AM, Jennifer and Senator Patty Murray will be featured speakers at a FAST Corridor Ribbon Cutting at the Auburn Transit Center Parking Garage** (23 A St. SW in Auburn). Jennifer, along with other Members of the Washington State delegation, worked to obtain funds for the FAST corridor project, which is a series of railroad crossing and port access improvement projects from Tacoma to Everett.

Earlier in the week, Jennifer toured the future site of the **Buckley Youth Center**, for which she obtained federal funding last year, and she visited **Black Diamond** where she toured the water main, for which she also obtained federal funding.

In addition, on Wednesday, July 31, Jennifer was a guest on **CNBCs "Kudlow & Cramer"** where she discussed the Trade Promotion Authority legislation that passed Congress and the Medicare Prescription Drug bill that passed the US House.

# What we did last week;

## **US HOUSE AND SENATE PASS FINAL VERSION OF BILL TO PROVIDE PRESIDENT WITH TRADE NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY. NEW LAW WILL BE SIGNED BY BUSH TOMORROW.**

The US House and Senate passed a final compromise version of legislation that will provide the President with trade negotiating authority. Also known as "Trade Promotion Authority," (TPA), this bill will allow the President to negotiate important trade agreements to provide new market opportunities for American businesses. The bill also provides assistance for workers who lose their jobs because of trade (Trade Adjustment Assistance) and a 65 percent tax credit for displaced workers to purchase health insurance. In a speech to Congress prior to House approval of the bill, Congresswoman Dunn said, *"In Washington State where one in three jobs are related to trade, we know that expanded trade opportunities works for America. Today, we should renew our commitment to engage in trade by passing a TPA bill that will expand access to markets and reduce other trade barriers. Passing TPA will enhance our competitiveness, create jobs and help bolster our economic recovery."*

## **US HOUSE PASSES BILL TO IMPROVE PIPELINE SAFETY, Bill Includes Dunn-Larsen Proposals**

In a vote of 423-4, the US House passed a bill that will improve pipeline safety and prevent accidents similar to the 1999 Bellingham pipeline explosion that killed three children. The legislation was authored by Chairman of the House Transportation Committee Don Young and includes several provisions from pipeline safety legislation authored by Jennifer and Congressman Rick Larsen. Following House approval of the bill, Jennifer said, *"I am committed to helping Washington families feel secure in their homes and communities. For over three years, we have worked to pass a bill that will protect our communities. This is a good bill that is the result of years of behind-the-scenes work and negotiations"*

## **US HOUSE APPROVES EMERGENCY SPENDING BILL TO SUPPORT, ENHANCE HOMELAND SECURITY EFFORTS**

The US House and Senate overwhelmingly approved a bill that will provide emergency dollars to help enhance our nation's homeland and national security efforts. The \$28.9 billion provides funds for the Department of Defense, Office of Homeland Security, and dollars for New York for expenses related to the September 11 attacks. The bill also provides for the Pell Grant program for college students and for veterans' medical care. The President signed the bill into law earlier this week.

## **US HOUSE PASSES MEASURE TO CREATE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

The US House has approved a new Department of Homeland Security to fight terrorism and keep our nation's borders safer by consolidating intelligence gathering and other security functions that are currently overseen by a number of different agencies. The Ways and Means Committee, of which Congresswoman Dunn is a Member, authored the portion of the bill dealing with the US Customs Service. Following approval of the bill, Congresswoman Dunn said the following: *"It is the priority of the President and Congress to do everything we can to ensure that Americans are as safe as possible from our enemies. We know that we have vulnerabilities and are working to eliminate these weaknesses. Creation of this new Department of Homeland Security is the result of hard work of nearly every Member of Congress from both sides of the aisle. Keeping Americans safe is not a partisan issue."*